

Comments:

I am extremely concerned about BLM's proposed WOPR, which violates federal law and allows timber harvests at the expense of a healthy forest, recreational uses, soil/water health and wildlife/habitat preservation. The timber industry is calling the shots by opposing sustainable logging practices and ignoring the meritorious results of sustainable harvests. If there is a concern for jobs, then the highly mechanical clear-cutting methods are not the way to create them. The use of heavy equipment, helicopters and cranes reduces the need for individual lumberjacks. Sustainable practices that harvest selectively create more jobs for individuals. Furthermore, sustainable forest management will produce both a short-term and long-term supply of timber without compromising the environment and other uses of the forest. The forest can produce an equivalent harvest, as achieved through clear-cutting, if the forest is properly managed. Clear-cutting kills the next generation of trees already growing in the forest understory, and impedes the forest's natural regeneration. Clear-cutting does not mimic forest fires. Forest fires leave some standing live trees where clear-cutting does not. Forest fires do not disturb and destroy the soil where clear-cutting does. Forest fires do not introduce toxic chemicals and pollutants into the forest system where clear-cutting does. Furthermore, the proposed plan revisions fail to meet the requirements of supporting the multiple uses of the forest. Clear-cutting destroys the recreational value of the forest by removing all living trees, destroying the understory and soil quality and devastating wildlife habitat. The proposed plan fails to adequately protect the watersheds, and violates the CWA. Logging without adequate buffers along the waterways compromises water quality and fish habitat. Herbicides and pesticides showered over the forest after a clear-cut run-off into the waterways, pollute the water and kill critical habitat and animals. The proposed plan revisions fail miserably to protect critical habitat of the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet and other old-growth-dependent species, and violate the Endangered Species Act. Under the proposed action, essential protections of the Northwest Forest Plan are lost. The proposed plan revision ignores the increasing risks of climate change by recklessly removing old-growth trees without regard to carbon sequestration and the consequences of the large-scale release of carbon. For all of these reasons, I strongly oppose the Western Oregon Plan Revision in its current form. This blatant political gifting to the timber industries by the Bush Administration must be stopped. Our Oregon forests cannot be destroyed for the financial gain of a few where reasonable alternatives are available for the legal objectives to be met without devastating the forest!

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete" followed by a stylized flourish.